

SEP 12 1962

Approved For Release 2005/01/05 : CIA-RDP75-00149R00070044001128

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J. SYMINGTON

SYMINGTON HITS U-2 CASE

**Says State Department Put
'Foot In Its Mouth'**

Fife Symington, Republican Second congressional district candidate, yesterday accused the State Department of putting its "foot in its mouth" over the latest U-2 spy plane incident.

The Chinese Communists announced they shot down one of the high-flying reconnaissance craft, owned by Nationalist China, Sunday over the Communist-held mainland.

A State Department spokesman said Monday that "we have a number of allies and we do exchange information" when asked if the Nationalist Chinese were transmitting information on the flights to American officials.

Called Stupid, Inept

Mr. Symington termed the department's handling of the matter shamefully stupid and inept. Once again, our State Department, faced with an international incident that could be turned to our disadvantage if handled injudiciously, has managed to put its "foot in its mouth," he said.

America's latest international blunder stems directly from the inability of the State Department press officer "to keep his mouth shut" concerning the disappearance over Red China of the U-2, Mr. Symington declared.

The fact that Nationalist China purchased certain aircraft from an American private manufac-

turer is of no particular significance in this case, he said.

But, Mr. Symington added, whether they were used to fly reconnaissance flights over mainland China is obviously of significance to Chiang Kai-shek and could conceivably be of future value to United States intelligence.

Silence Inability Seen

What is at the moment of vital importance to United States' interests, is the State Department's congenital inability to keep silent when it would enhance the United States' world-wide bargaining position in the cold war, the candidate said.

It has now drawn the United States into a hang-dog apologetic posture which saps its already weakened world standing, Mr. Symington said.